

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:199
ANSWERED ON:18.11.2002
DUMPING AND IMPORT OF TOXIC MERCURY
S. SAIDUZZAMAN

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government has banned dumping of toxic waste such as mercury in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government are aware that the banned toxic waste is still being imported at Alang coast ships in Gujarat for breaking and in the name of providing employment to the unemployed workers and their families;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reason therefore;
- (d) whether the studies carried out by the Government of Singapore at Alang scrap yards show gross metallic contamination leading to health problems and death of workers and families; and
- (e) if so, whether the Government intend to stop this lethal activity and find some alternate livelihood and if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU):

- (a) to (c) As per the hazardous waste (Management and Handling) rule 1989, as amended in 2000, no toxic wastes, including the waste containing mercury are allowed to be imported into the country for dumping, disposal or recycling. Import of recyclable wastes contained in list B (Annexure 1X) of the Basel convention is however, permitted for recycling on a case to case basis in respect of units registered with the ministry of Environment and Forests.
- (d) According to Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) and Ministry of Steel, no such studies carried out by the Government of Singapore at Alang scrap yards have been brought to the notice of the Government.
- (e) Does not arise.